

Appendix III: Habitat Management Guidelines

Understanding ecological demands on white-tailed deer and their habitat use strategies to cope with those demands allows us to formulate a basic set of habitat management guidelines. Whereas these guidelines are broadly applicable, unique local conditions may require more specific management prescriptions are appropriate.



- Simulate or promote natural disturbance regimes in white-tailed deer habitats on public lands.
- Provide closed canopy forests (old growth) in low elevation forests where white-tailed deer winter.
 - Maintain an overall 70% cover with 70% crown closure on winter ranges.
 - Provide half of the winter range as key winter range, with 85% crown closure, 250 mature stems/acre, and canopy heights at least 90 feet high.
- Provide suitable foraging areas
 - Promote use of 10-acre or smaller clearcuts
 - Design forest openings such that cover is within 150 feet of all parts of the forest opening.
 - Dispose of slash by fall broadcast burning or cutting to less than 1 foot high.
- Protect riparian areas as habitat and populations linkage areas, especially in southern Idaho, where white-tailed deer habitat is limited.
 - Where practical, fence riparian habitat, and maintain adjacent cover strips of at least 250 feet and at least 20 acres in size.
- Control noxious weeds and promote native habitats for white-tailed deer.
- Protect public safety and white-tailed deer migration and linkage areas in relation to highways and roads.
- Discourage human related disturbance and access in white-tailed deer wintering areas.
- Minimize and mitigate loss of white-tailed deer habitat and public access.
- Encourage adoption of development rules and limitations on dog control, fence construction, landscape plantings, and open space in white-tailed deer habitat.
- Encourage habitat conservation instead of feeding and other artificial means of concentrating or elevating white-tailed deer populations.
- Encourage sustained agriculture on ranch lands that provide white-tailed deer habitat.
- Encourage habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement to reduce or eliminate white-tailed deer damage to agricultural and ornamental plantings.
- Cooperate and encourage managed access providing deer security and a balance between nonmotorized and motorized hunting opportunities.